

How to Obtain Medical Cannabis

Medical cannabis patients and parents or legal guardians are ***not*** required to register with the Cannabis Control Authority before accessing a licensed medical cannabis dispensing location. A Written Certification for the Use of Medical Cannabis from a practitioner eligible to provide such certification must be presented at the dispensing location, along with a government-issued ID, to obtain medical cannabis products. Patients and parents or legal guardians have the option to register with the Cannabis Control Authority if they wish to do so.

Registered agents are ***not*** required to register with the Cannabis Control Authority ***if*** the practitioner has chosen to add the agent's name to the Written Certification for the Use of Medical Cannabis. Otherwise, the registered agent must register with the Board.

Practitioners Eligible to Provide a Written Certification for the Use of Medical Cannabis

A practitioner of medicine or osteopathy, or a physician assistant, licensed by the Board of Medicine, or an advanced practice registered nurse practitioner jointly licensed by the Board of Medicine and the Board of Nursing may be eligible to provide a written certification for medical cannabis to a patient that may benefit from the use of medical cannabis to treat a specific diagnosis or disease. A list of eligible practitioners may be found here:

<https://patients.va.biotr.ac/>. Click on the "Enrolled Medical Practitioners" tab.

Practitioner contact information may be found here:

<https://www.vahealthprovider.com/> or here: www.google.com.

New Medical Cannabis Patients

Once your appointment with an eligible practitioner has been completed and the practitioner has submitted your Written Certification for the Use of Medical Cannabis, you will receive an email directing you to access a digital card that validates you have received the required written certification. You will also be able to digitally access the written certification. You may access a licensed medical cannabis dispensing location by presenting the digital card and a government-issued ID to the dispensary. The dispensing location will scan your digital card and access your written certification. There is no need to print either the digital card or written certification unless you wish to do so or cannot access the documents on your phone. You are not required to

register with the Cannabis Control Authority to access the digital card. The email you receive will also provide you with directions to register with the Authority, if you choose to do so. The fee to register is \$50. Again, registration is not required.

Medical Cannabis Patients Currently Registered with the Cannabis Control Authority

If you are currently registered as a medical cannabis patient with the Cannabis Control Authority, you will be notified approximately 45 days prior to the expiration date of your registration that you have the option to renew your registration. This renewal is optional (not required) and is separate from the renewal of the Written Certification for the Use of Medical Cannabis provided to you by an eligible practitioner. If you choose to renew, complete the instructions emailed to you, pay the \$50 renewal fee, and you will be provided access to a digital registered patient medical cannabis card. Please note that you will be provided a digital card linked to your written certification upon the next renewal of your written certification. The patient will need to facilitate that renewal with an eligible practitioner (see above).

Medical Cannabis Patients with a Current Written Certification for the Use of Medical Cannabis/Not Currently Registered with the Cannabis Control Authority

Patients that have a current written certification but are not currently registered with the Cannabis Control Authority will have access to a digital card linked to your written certification upon the next renewal of the written certification. The patient will need to facilitate that renewal with an eligible practitioner (see above). Additionally, this applies to those patients whose previous Board registration has expired. As mentioned above, registration with the Cannabis Control Authority is optional. If you wish to register with the Authority, please go to the following link: <https://patients.va.biotr.ac/>, click on the Login To Your Account tab and create an account. You will be required to submit a copy of your current written certification and a copy of your proof of age, identity and residency. There is a \$50 registration fee that is required before your application will be processed. Once your application is processed, access to a digital registered patient medical cannabis card will be sent to you by email.

For questions, please email: medicalcannabis@cca.virginia.gov.